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Missouri Labor Market Conditions Improve in September

The Missouri Department of Economic Development announced today that the state's labor market conditions continued to improve in September. Both the state's seasonally adjusted and not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates edged down, while employment increased again.

"Once again the unemployment rate is an encouraging economic indicator for Missouri because it is moving downward and continues to be well below the national rate. In addition, we are pleased to see an increase in employment during the month of September," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "We see this as a positive sign of economic growth and vitality in our state."

Missouri's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased by two-tenths of a point to 5.4 percent; the rate has been receding since the peak of 5.7 percent reached in June. There were fewer Missourians unemployed this September (162,200) than there were a year ago (164,800).

The nation's labor market conditions remained relatively unchanged in September. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 6.1 percent and total non-farm payroll increased slightly by 57,000 jobs in September.

On a not-seasonally-adjusted basis, Missouri's unemployment rate decreased by nearly a half of a percent in September to 5.3 percent, down from 5.8 percent in August. The September rate is a half point below the national rate.

Payroll employment in Missouri increased by 18,300 jobs on a seasonally adjusted basis in September. Resumption of employment at public schools and colleges, with the opening of the fall semester, helped push employment upward.

This is the fifth month in 2003 that employment has increased over the previous month's employment. Current employment of 2,661,800 is 18,500 jobs higher than in January, on a seasonally adjusted basis. Total employment of individuals in Missouri is about the same as it was in September 2002.

In other sectors, employment change was mixed. Trade, transportation and utilities employment was up by 1,500 jobs over the month, while financial activities added 1,400 jobs on balance. Private educational and health services employment was up by 900.

Construction, professional and business services, "other" services, and leisure and hospitality reported lower employment than in August. Manufacturing employment was little changed over the month.

Although Missouri has recently experienced growth in employment, non-farm payroll employment remains lower than it was a year ago, by 39,400 jobs. There are a number of industries that have experienced over-the-year employment growth, including construction, up 2,300 jobs; food manufacturing, up 1,200 jobs; wholesale trade, up 5,000 jobs; and health care and social assistance, up 4,500 jobs.

These gains, however, have been more than offset by losses in manufacturing, air transportation, retail trade, administrative and support services; religious, grant-making, civic and professional organizations; and government.

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MISSOURI UNEMPLOYMENT RATES
FOR METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MSAs), LABOR MARKET AREAS (LMAs), AND COUNTIES
CURRENT MONTH (SEPTEMBER 2003), PREVIOUS TWO MONTHS (JULY AND AUGUST 2003), AND YEAR AGO (SEPTEMBER 2002)

	SEP 2003	AUG 2003	JUL 2003	SEP 2002		SEP 2003	AUG 2003	JUL 2003	SEP 2002
U.S. (not seasonally adjusted)	5.8	6.0	6.3	5.4	Atchison	2.7	3.8	4.6	2.8
MISSOURI	5.3	5.8	5.8	5.2	Audrain	5.6	6.2	6.5	5.2
ST. LOUIS MSA	5.8	6.2	6.2	5.5	Barton	4.1	4.9	4.5	3.6
Franklin	5.3	5.9	6.3	5.1	Bates	7.0	8.1	8.1	7.4
Jefferson	5.0	5.4	5.4	5.1	Benton	6.3	7.3	7.7	5.9
Lincoln	5.0	5.5	6.6	4.6	Caldwell	6.9	9.1	9.0	6.9
St. Charles	3.8	4.0	4.5	3.7	Carroll	4.3	5.2	5.8	5.2
St. Louis County	5.0	5.2	5.1	4.8	Cedar	6.3	7.7	8.3	5.4
Warren	5.5	5.9	6.8	4.3	Chariton	6.7	6.6	7.7	8.7
St. Louis City	10.4	11.1	10.5	9.9	Clark	6.5	7.9	10.3	6.6
KANSAS CITY MSA	5.6	5.9	6.0	5.8	Cooper	3.2	3.6	3.8	4.0
Cass	5.0	5.5	5.4	4.3	Crawford	6.2	6.8	7.2	6.1
Clay	4.4	4.7	4.8	4.4	Dade	4.8	5.2	5.4	4.8
Clinton	4.8	6.1	5.7	5.5	Dallas	5.5	6.7	6.7	5.8
Jackson	6.8	7.3	7.0	6.9	Daviess	5.6	6.7	7.1	5.0
Lafayette	4.9	6.3	6.1	5.1	DeKalb	4.7	6.4	6.4	4.4
Platte	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.4	Dent	5.8	6.8	7.1	5.9
Ray	5.9	6.9	7.1	4.8	Douglas	9.8	8.8	8.0	10.5
SPRINGFIELD MSA	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.3	Dunklin	7.6	8.9	8.9	6.5
Christian	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.4	Gasconade	5.6	7.0	8.0	5.1
Greene	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.1	Gentry	3.3	4.3	3.8	3.5
Webster	3.5	4.2	4.5	5.2	Grundy	5.5	6.4	6.0	4.4
JOPLIN MSA	4.9	5.7	5.8	5.4	Harrison	3.8	4.2	4.0	4.0
Jasper	4.7	5.1	5.2	5.1	Henry	7.2	8.3	8.1	5.2
Newton	5.2	6.9	7.1	5.9	Hickory	9.3	10.3	11.7	7.2
COLUMBIA MSA	2.0	2.4	2.7	2.2	Holt	4.0	4.9	6.0	3.7
Boone	2.0	2.4	2.7	2.2	Howard	3.5	4.7	4.9	4.5
ST. JOSEPH MSA	5.3	5.7	5.5	5.4	Iron	7.4	8.3	8.7	10.1
Andrew	4.7	5.3	4.8	4.1	Johnson	3.7	4.4	4.2	3.7
Buchanan	5.4	5.8	5.6	5.7	Knox	3.5	3.6	4.1	3.3
ADAIR-SCHUYLER LMA	4.1	5.3	5.1	2.6	Laclede	8.1	9.7	10.3	5.2
Adair	3.9	5.0	4.8	2.6	Lewis	3.8	4.6	5.2	3.6
Schuyler	5.3	7.4	6.8	3.0	Linn	11.3	12.0	12.9	12.7
BUTLER-CARTER-RIPLEY LMA	5.2	5.8	6.6	5.0	Livingston	4.1	4.6	4.7	4.2
Butler	4.7	5.4	5.9	4.7	McDonald	5.3	6.7	6.6	5.6
Carter	5.2	5.0	7.7	5.7	Macon	5.2	5.4	6.4	5.7
Ripley	7.2	7.5	8.6	6.0	Madison	6.5	7.5	8.4	7.8
CAMDEN-MILLER LMA	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.7	Mercer	4.5	4.6	4.9	3.8
Camden	4.0	4.0	4.1	4.6	Monroe	6.4	7.6	8.8	6.0
Miller	4.3	5.0	5.0	4.8	Montgomery	6.0	6.8	7.7	4.9
CAPE GIRARDEAU-SCOTT-NEW MADRID LMA	5.2	5.9	5.9	5.1	Morgan	4.9	5.4	5.7	6.0
Bollinger	5.0	5.5	6.7	5.1	Nodaway	1.5	2.1	2.8	1.4
Cape Girardeau	3.7	4.0	4.1	3.6	Ozark	4.5	4.6	4.7	4.6
Mississippi	7.6	9.1	8.3	6.7	Pemiscot	10.0	11.2	11.8	9.4
New Madrid	9.4	10.9	11.5	10.0	Perry	3.0	3.0	3.4	3.4
Scott	5.6	6.6	6.0	5.5	Pettis	5.2	6.7	6.9	5.6
COLE-CALLAWAY-MONITEAU LMA	3.0	3.8	4.0	3.3	Pike	4.4	5.1	5.3	4.7
Callaway	3.5	4.1	4.2	3.3	Polk	4.7	4.9	6.3	4.4
Cole	2.7	3.5	3.7	2.9	Pulaski	4.0	4.5	4.6	4.5
Moniteau	2.4	3.3	3.3	4.4	Putnam	6.2	6.8	6.0	3.5
Osage	3.8	5.0	5.4	4.3	Randolph	4.5	6.2	8.5	4.8
HOWELL -OREGON-SHANNON LMA	5.4	5.9	5.8	5.1	Reynolds	8.3	10.2	10.3	7.6
Howell	5.7	6.4	5.9	5.3	St. Clair	6.8	8.1	8.3	5.8
Oregon	4.2	4.7	5.2	3.9	Ste. Genevieve	4.9	5.5	5.9	5.1
Shannon	5.2	5.0	6.3	5.4	Saline	5.1	6.1	5.8	5.3
LAWRENCE-BARRY LMA	4.2	4.7	5.0	4.5	Scotland	2.8	4.1	4.6	3.6
Barry	4.2	4.8	4.9	4.6	Shelby	5.6	4.6	4.9	4.5
Lawrence	4.2	4.7	5.2	4.3	Stoddard	5.3	6.7	7.2	5.3
MARION-RALLS LMA	5.0	5.7	6.9	5.1	Stone	5.9	6.3	6.0	5.5
Marion	5.0	5.8	7.0	5.0	Sullivan	7.0	8.4	9.1	3.6
Ralls	4.8	5.5	6.4	5.3	Taney	3.5	4.1	4.0	3.6
PHELPS-MARIES LMA	2.9	3.6	3.6	3.1	Texas	7.7	8.6	8.9	6.5
Maries	3.5	4.4	4.5	3.2	Vernon	4.5	5.7	5.3	5.1
Phelps	2.7	3.4	3.5	3.1	Wayne	9.3	10.1	10.9	10.7
ST. FRANCOIS-WASHINGTON LMA	7.4	7.9	8.9	7.8	Worth	3.1	3.7	5.9	4.2
St. Francois	7.2	7.6	8.5	7.5	Wright	7.1	8.0	7.7	8.0
Washington	7.8	8.7	9.9	8.5					

NOTE: DATA FOR COUNTIES WITHIN MSAs/LMAs ARE DISAGGREGATED FROM MSA/LMA TOTALS.
PRODUCED BY MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MERIC, IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS